

discussion. A summary of the report should also be provided on a separate sheet. Entries must be machine or type written, with double spacing, on one side only of A4 paper. Three copies must be submitted.

- 5 The subject must be approved by a genitourinary physician at the entrant's medical school. The observation must be made before full registration. A winner may not enter for the prize again. Each entry should be accompanied by a declaration that these conditions have been fulfilled.
- 6 Entries should be submitted to the honorary secretary of the MSSVD by June 30 each year. They will then be considered by the president, the honorary secretary, and the honorary treasurer. When appropriate other experts may be consulted. These assessors will make recommendations to council, who will make the final decision concerning the prize.
- 7 Entries must be submitted within 12 months of full registration or its equivalent.
- 8 Regulations are obtainable from the honorary secretary of the MSSVD.
- 9 The assessors may ask the editor of an appropriate journal to consider an entry for publication. If so, it will be received for publication in the usual way.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Lovers' Guide. A Stanway. Pickwick Videos, 18, £12.99.

Pornography may be defined as any written, photographic or filmed material calculated to engender sexual excitement. How to produce a video showing individual men and women and couples demonstrating all forms of sexual activity in a way calculated to avoid accusations of "Porno!" is the singular achievement of this video. Its aim is clearly stated as "to enhance sexual relationships". Dr Andrew Stanway pursues this aim with relentless earnestness. Thus after the first 15-20 minutes of writhing flesh one is suddenly conscious that one's concentration is firmly fixed on the well-honed text with the illustration of couplings no more than an essential accompaniment. All forms of what Kinsey used to call sexual "outlet" ie sex to orgasm are fully demonstrated as are a variety of positions with the advantages of each discussed.

In terms of content, sequencing and filming, the work is packed with detail; love, sex and love-making and the nuances of each are dealt with and discussed unreservedly. The candid camera operates with good taste throughout. Appropriate lighting and unobtrusive music give the production a smooth and thoroughly modern professionalism. The script has received the benefits of semantic consciousness, so that it flows easily and so faultlessly that it offers no chance of giving offence.

The emphasis throughout the 90 minutes is more on love than sex and so many familiar and familiarising words and phrases occur and recur, for example, open discussion, the pleasures of touching, communication, trust, ridding oneself of guilt, and honesty.

Socio-biological terms such as courtship rituals, inappropriate expectations, self-stimulation, fantasy, emotional significance, genital geography and surrender are so used as to be so apt that they call for no definition.

It was the Kinsey reports of 1948 and 1953 which pointed out that masturbation is the commonest form of sexual activity. It receives detailed attention here as a solitary, instructive and mutually pleasurable activity. In an age when the educational cry is for safer sex, this emphasis is welcomed.

No aspect of sex is omitted. The practicalities of all forms of contraception includes an illustration of how to put on a condom. Banking semen before vasectomy receives a mention. The sexually transmitted diseases are viewed as a hazard to be positively avoided by monogamy and/or safer sex. The action needed to neutralise the anxiety that may arise from failure of hazard avoidance is made clear.

The British Board of Film Classification has wisely granted Dr Stanway's endeavours an 18 certificate. This video is available legally in your favourite High Street video shop. Its comprehensive approach, completely free from any hint of impropriety, means that it can be recommended not only to patients but to one's maiden aunt as well as to couples determined to be happy though married.

RS MORTON

Syphilis and Yaws. By G T Moordhoek. **A Molecular Study to Detect and Differentiate Pathogenic Triponemes.** Amsterdam, The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the Vrije Universiteit. (139pp. Free. Paperback).

This research is timely. It is published at a time when there is a resurgence of yaws around the world in countries between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, when endemic venereal syphilis is showing occasional epidemic peaks, and when ex-colonial powers are reporting endemic treponematoses in immigrants from their former colonies. In addition, the arrival of HIV/AIDS is bringing in its wake reports of unusual presentations of syphilis and reports of immunosuppression leading to false negative serological tests for the disease.

It is against this background and the long existing social, clinical and laboratory limitations on the differentiation of the treponematoses that this research has been planned and executed.

Its aim has been to find a difference between *T pallidum* and *T pertenue* at the molecular level and to use this to differentiate, and so diagnose with assurance, syphilis from yaws. A sufficiently sensitive specific method using DNA amplification was sought with the hope that even small numbers of treponemes could be detected and differentiated.

The serological methodology is detailed and the minutiae of the attempts to distinguish the two organisms by polymerase chain reaction and use of synthetic DNA probes is presented in a readily understandable fashion. Studies of specimens of CSF are included.

The results have been disappointingly negative but the modern technology deployed has cleared much ground. Such detailed explorations make for several suggestions for future work. The research report is sandwiched between a very up-to-date history of the treponematoses and a summary of the research which is notable for its concise and simple clarity.

A young British-born acquaintance of mine who has lived and worked in various parts of Europe for the last 12 years recently observed "There is a far-seeing sense of civilisation on the Continent which you off-shore islanders know and care little about".

The socio-epidemiological awareness behind this research, the quality of the work and not least the private enterprise which assured its printing and free distribution suggests that the observation may be apt.

The comprehensive nature of Gerda Moordhoek's presentation appealed to me in a variety of ways. She offers a pearl in a very acceptable setting.

RS MORTON

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